Budget 2001-02 for establishment of Apparel Parks for export of garments . Besides a provision of Rs. 15 crores has been made for the Scheme for improvement of critical infrastructure facilities at major textile production centres.

Maintaining 90 per cent compulsory jute packing for foodgrains and sugar

1186. MISS MABEL REBELLO: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have decided to maintain 90 per cent compulsory jute packing for foodgrains and sugar for the jute year 2001-2002;

(b) if so, the reasons for not notifying the same within a week's time from the date of decision as being the general practice; and

(c) whether Government have taken any action against the officials responsible for the non-issuance of Notification within Seven days period?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI V. DHANANJAY KUMAR): (a) No, Sir. The Government decided to continue with the reservation for foodgrains at 90%, sugar at 90% and urea at 15% under the Jute Packaging materials (Compulsory Use in Packing Commodities) Act, 1987 till 31st October 2000 or until further orders whichever is earlier.

(b) Does not arise; the orders were notified within the prescribed time.

(c) Does not arise.

Step taken to cut cost and change product mix in Textile Industry

1187. SHRI RUMANDLA RAMACHANDRAIAH: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the newsitem appearing in the Economic Times dated 6th August, 2001 under the heading "textile units in a crisis";

(b) if so, whether it has been reported that textile industry should

take steps to cut down cost and change the product mix to suit the market requirement, particularly, of value-added products;

(c) if so, to what extent the textile industry have taken steps to cut down cost and change the product mix;

(d) what are the suggestion made to the textile industry; and

(e) to what extent textile industry has agreed to implement these suggestions?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI V. DHANANJAY KUMAR): (a) and (b) It has been reported under the news item that textile industry should take steps to cut down cost and change the product mix to suit the market requirement, particularly of value-added products.

(c) to (e) The steps to be taken to cut down cost and change of the product mix etc. are the prerogative of the individual mills/ companies based on their capabilities, strategies and plans etc. The role of the government is that of a facilitator by formulating policies to create a conducive environment for the healthy growth of all industries including textile industry. The government has formulated the following schemes to accelerate the growth of the industry:

(i) For modernization of the textile and jute industries, the Government has launched the Technology Upgradation Fund Scheme (TUFS) *w.e.f.*, 1.4.99 for a period of 5 years. The scheme is being operated by the Nodal Agencies *viz.* IDBI, SIDBI & IFCI and their co-opted agencies. This is an open ended scheme. The scheme provides for reimbursement of 5% interest charged by the financial institutions/banks on a project of technology upgradation in conformity with the scheme.

(ii) The Technology Mission on Cotton (TMC) has been launched to improve quality, productivity and production of cotton thereby to make the quality cotton available to the user industry.

(iii) Two Schemes namely "apparel Park for Exports" and "Textile Centre and Infrastructure Development Scheme"

have been announced and the guidelines for these schemes are being finalised. A provision of Rs. 10 crore has been earmarked in the B.E. 2001-02 for creating cluster of excellence, *i.e.* aparel parks for production and export of garments. Besides, a provision of Rs. 15 crore has also been made in B.E. 2001-02 for scheme for improvement of infrastructure facilities at major textile production centres.

Global demand for jute goods

1188. SHRI RUMANDLA RAMACHANDRAIAH: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there is a global demand for jute goods and is likely to go up 20 per cent by 2007;

(b) if so, whether any concrete proposals in this regard are being worked out by the Centre to improve the jute goods;

(c) whether it is also a fact that according to the approach paper on the 10th Plan, India could really export 2.5 lakh tones of jute goods; and

(d) if so, what are the concrete steps taken by the Centre in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI V. DHANANJAY KUMAR): (a) The global demand for jute goods was approximately 6.70 lakh MT in 1999-2000. This demand as per projections made in the approach paper on the 10th Plan is expected to increase to over 7.00 lakh MT by 2007.

(b) To improve the quality and productivity of jute goods, Government have decided to launch Jute Technology Mission (JTM). In addition, support to modernization and diversification of jute products is available under the existing schemes of the Government.

(c) and (d) In the approach paper, export of jute goods has been projected to reach at 2.5 lakh MT during the year 2007. Government has been taking various steps to increase the export of jute goods, which include External Market Assistance (EMA) scheme to supplement export efforts of the exporters, implementation of the